

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2016
1:00 P.M.

GRINTER HALL ROOM 264

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson (Chair); Dr. Karen Bjorndal; Dr. David Bloom; Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Bruce MacFadden; Dr. John Shea; Dr. Jane Southworth; Ms. Mirna Amaya (GSC rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Tom Frazer; Dr. Christopher Hass; Dr. Raymond Issa; Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran; Dr. Joanna Peris; Dr. Connie Shehan; Ms. Karastin Katusin (GSC alternate)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Amy Blue (College of Public Health and Health Professions); Ms. Suzie Burns (Office of Admissions); Dr. Peter Hansen (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences); Dr. Thomas Knight (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education); Dr. Ido Oren (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Dr. Sue Semple-Rowland (College of Medicine); Ms. Heather Steingraber (College of Pharmacy)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan; Ms. Gann Enholm; Ms. Caroline Lentz; Mr. Matt Mitterko; Dr. Rhonda Moraca; Ms. Patty Van Wert; Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the September 15, 2016 Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATES:

2. **Proposal from the College of Pharmacy for a new graduate certificate in Managed Care Pharmacy Systems (#11042).** Ms. Heather Steingraber was present for discussion (Enclosure 2).

GC Member: Is it common to have such a low GPA requirement for admission to a graduate certificate?

Ms. Steingraber: We have put forward the 2.0 requirement for our other graduate certificates. To date, the lowest GPA a student admitted to our certificates has had is 2.6.

Dr. Duncan: A lower GPA requirement is common for older certificates. There is the issue that students with this low GPA will not be admissible to a graduate program. Many of these graduate certificates were established before the Registrar's credentials were in place.

Ms. Steingraber: Students are not under the impression that a graduate certificate is a gateway to a graduate program.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a spring 2017 effective date.

3. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a modification to the curriculum of the graduate certificate in Biomedical Neuroscience (#11044).** Dr. Sue Semple-Rowland was present for discussion (Enclosure 3). A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a spring 2017 effective date.

CONCENTRATIONS:

4. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions for a new graduate concentration in Health Services Research for the PhD in Public Health (#11007).** Dr. Amy Blue was present for discussion (Enclosure 4). A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a fall 2017 effective date.
5. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for a new graduate concentration in Financial Economics for the M.A. in Economics (#11030).** Dr. Thomas Knight was present for discussion (Enclosure 5).
GC Member: You anticipate 120 students in this new concentration in the first three years?
Dr. Knight: There has been a large amount of interest in a program like this. Many of the master's programs in economics have fallen off, because there is not a clear market for them-most students receive a Bachelor's and a Ph.D. If students do receive a Master's degree, it's usually on their way to a Ph.D. So, there is a market for domestic students and a large number of international students for this type of specialized degree program. We anticipate cohorts of around forty to fifty students.
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a fall 2017 effective date.
6. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to close the graduate concentration in International Development Policy and Administration for the M.A. in Political Science (#11017).** Dr. Ido Oren will be present for discussion (Enclosure 6).
GC Member: There are no students in the concentration, is that correct?
Dr. Oren: There have not been any students since the retirement of Dr. Hyden nearly a decade ago.
GC Member: When the program was active how many students were in it?
Dr. Oren: The concentration only had a handful of active students, maybe one per year.
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a spring 2017 effective date.

MODIFICATION OF THE CURRICULUM FOR A MAJOR:

7. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to modify the graduate curriculum for the major in Animal Molecular and Cellular**

Biology (#10650). Dr. Peter Hansen was present for discussion (Enclosure 7).
Dr. Hansen: The Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology was first established as an interdisciplinary concentration, then in 2006 was made a formal graduate major. The faculty who administer this major come from four different colleges, so there are a wide variety of courses available. Over the years, some courses have been newly available or deleted, so the current proposal is an attempt to update the list of courses.

GC Member: Is there any difficulty with the students having access to the courses?

Dr. Hansen: It's never been an issue before.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, with a spring 2017 effective date.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- No Information Items

III. INFORMAL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **GC Member:** What are the rules for preeminence and the transfer of research credits for incoming graduate students?

Dr. Duncan: This question originally arose about two years ago when the Board of Trustees established the Preeminence Initiative at UF: what happens when faculty hired under the preeminence initiative professors want to bring their own graduate students with them? The current policy is that only graded coursework and only a certain amount of credit can be transferred. So two issues arise. The first issue is that many of these students are far into their programs, so it may be more appropriate to transfer a few credits out from UF for a student to receive a degree from their previous institution, or if they only are only a few credits into their program it would make more sense for their degree to be from UF. This is a complicated situation. The second issue arises when the credits are ungraded research credits. We ask that the preeminent professor affirm that these credits are not just blocks of hours and were taken under the mentorship of the preeminent professor. We have approved two petitions for these kinds of credits to be transferred, one for six hours and one for nine hours.

GC Member: There seem to be different rules for different faculty.

Ms. Enholm: We ask that professor provide a term-by-term explanation of what the student's enrollment at UF will look like. Sometimes transferred credits are not needed..

Dr. Frierson: It is important that the departments and the programs maintain their integrity.

Ms. Enholm: A petition for one graduate student that is successful does not equal petitions for all graduate students. They are reviewed and decided upon on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Duncan: The other side of this is that we do not want to lose out on a preeminence hire because of how they choose to manage their students.

- b. **GC Member:** There are concerns regarding the changes to the Graduate Research Fellowship and the pay imbalances this will create. And is the rule that this is only available to domestic students a Graduate School rule?

GC Member: We cannot recruit the best of the best graduate students with the current stipends. The rule is a college rule, not a Graduate School rule.

Dr. Frierson: We need to be able to provide competitive funding and take advantage while the funds are available.

GC Member: We have had our minimum stipend levels gradually increase but have not seen an improvement in the quality of the students our program attracts.

Dr. Frierson: The Graduate Student Preeminence Award (GSPA) is too high to give to every student, and it costs the units too much to split. So, recipients need to be selected carefully.

GC Member: We should not have to limit the top offer we can make to students because it is unfair to the other students.

The meeting was adjourned at 1: 35 p.m.